

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been previously canceled and claims 17, 18 and 23-30 are currently canceled. Claims 16 and 19 are currently amended and no new claims have been added. Thus, claims 16 and 19-22 are currently pending and presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Restriction requirement:

Applicants elect, without traverse, to prosecute for examination purposes the invention identified in Group I, claims 16-22 and have canceled the withdrawn claims 23-30.

Request for Allowance of Claims 16 and 19-22:

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 18-22 for depending on a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 18-22 contain patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 16 has been amended in accordance with the Examiners suggestions. In view of the amendments to claim 16, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is in condition for allowance as well as claims 19-22, which depend thereon.

Response to Rejections Under Section 102 and 103:

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) and 103(a). Applicants' have amended claim 16 to include the limitations of claim 17 and allowable claim 18 as discussed above and respectfully submit that the prior art does not teach or suggest the limitations of amended claim 1,6 as indicated by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit claims 19-22 are patentable at least based on their dependence on allowable claim 16 as well as on their own merit and requests allowance of claims 19-22.

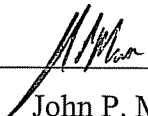
Conclusion

Applicants appreciate the effective search and examination conducted by the Examiner and the indication of allowable subject matter. The application has been amended by the herein in accordance with the Examiners findings, and passage to issue is respectfully requested. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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